

CLASS OF 1813

JOHN McDONALD

Death has again invaded the ranks of our aged residents; this time removing one of our most respected citizens, the Hon. John McDonald. Although Mr. McDonald's death was regarded for weeks past as likely to happen at any moment by reason of his advanced age and feebleness, the announcement of his decease, which occurred on the 5th inst., was received by all our people with mingled feelings of sadness and regret.

The parents of the deceased were Daniel McDonald, born in Scotland in 1767, and Margaret, his wife, born in Ireland in 1772. They emigrated to this country and settled in Hebron, where their son John, the subject of this sketch, was born, November 29, 1794. At the age of twenty years, while fitting for college in Washington Academy, he volunteered aid in repelling the British, who had advanced beyond our northern frontier and were about to attack Plattsburgh. For this service he was pensioned, along with other veterans of the war of 1812.

In 1819 he went abroad, spending a year in Europe, visiting relatives.

In 1825 Mr. McDonald married Margaret Shaw, of Greenwich. The children from this marriage were James S. and Donald McDonald; the latter died in 1842.

He represented this county in the State Legislature for three terms, 1827, 1829 and 1832, and was contemporary with William H. Seward, Silas Wright, Erastus Root, Azariah C. Flagg, William L. Marcy, George R. Davis, Thurlow Weed, Martin Van Buren, Francis Granger and N. P. Tallmadge, and personally ~~and~~ acquainted with them all. He was appointed one of a committee of five by the Board of Supervisors to select and purchase a farm for the county poor, and was for many years one of the Superintendents of the Poor.

From 1862 to 1866 he was assistant assessor of internal revenue. At the time of his death he was honorary Vice-President of the Washington county Bible Society, and the last of the old men such as Dr. A. Bullions, Dr. E. Halley, Dr. Asa Fitch, Ahira Eldridge, Archibald Rowan, Dr. Savage, General Bulkley, M. J. H. Myers, Sidney Wells and Rev. L. Kellogg, who were invariably seen at the anniversaries of the religious societies of the county. M

Mr. McDonald was in many respects a remarkable man. He was a man of culture, eminent ability and high accomplishments; his integrity and purity of character were without blemish and he held an exalted place among his associates and fellow men.

His vocation in life was that of a farmer, and he was proud of his calling.

CLASS OF 1813--John McDonald--2

For the past few years he had been an invalid, but his declining years were blessed by the solicitous care of his son, James S. McDonald. His funeral took place from the U. P. church, of which he was a life-long member, Monday afternoon last at 2 o'clock, the Rev. W. A. Mackenzie officiating. The following gentlemen acted as honorary bearers: Sheriff David Johnston, Wm. McFarland, Fred. Kegler, John Shaw, Charles L. Fitch and Daniel Sherman; and his remains were followed to their last resting place by a large concourse of our citizens.

Washington County Obituaries Vol. 1 p. 351

Collection of newspaper obituaries in the
N. Y. State Library.

CLASS OF 1812

JOHN McDONALD

One of the regiments from the eastern part of the county was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John McClary of Salem, but Major William Root of Hebron, was the officer in command when it was called out. It rendezvoused at West Hebron, marched thence to Sandy Hill, and thence to Whitehall. Indëed, the last mentioned place was the general rendezvous for all this section of the county, as it had been for McDonough's fleet. The regiment, of whose movements, says Johnson, we happen to know from Hon. John McDonald, who was a member of it, sailed from Whitehall in two sloops just before the Battle of Plattsburgh. He syas that he does not believe there were more six effective muskets in the regiment! the arrangement was for them to go to the arsenal at Burlington, Vt., and receive arms, and thence to Plattsburgh to receive the enemy. "But just before reaching the former place, the thunder of cannon was heard. After a brief but furious combat, the warlike sounds ceased, and then the soldiers on board the sloops were in a tremor of anxiety to know which side was victorious. Soon, however, a light vessel came flying up the lake, bearing the news that the so-called 'Mistress of the Seas' had been lowered before the Yankee bunting."

History of Washington County, N. Y.
Stone.

JOHN MC DONALD

Died. In Salem, January 6th, 1883, Hon. John McDonald, aged 88 years.

Gathered to his fathers in the fullness of years; a patriarch of his day and generation. Briefly we tell of the culmination of life, however strong or noble it may have been. The story is one which every age repeats, which alike to every kindred and tribe of mankind brings sorrow, and yet, however and whenever it comes, it surprises and even shocks us. Still when death comes to an old man, whose life has had honors, and has been filled to the overflowing with the common experiences of men, and at the end is yielded up in faith, it seems but a benediction. So has death come to John McDonald, one whose years had extended far beyond the time when the allotments of life are pain and weariness, and when it closes is but the dropping of a thread that was tangled.

Of Scotch Irish parentage, Mr. McDonald was born in Hebron, Washington County, N. Y., Nov. 29th, 1794, where he spent his youth. He prepared for college at Washington Academy. During his preparatory studies he went to Plattsburg to aid in repelling British invasion, and returning entered Union College, from which he graduated. His health failing, he travelled for a year in Europe. Returning home he married, in 1825, Margaret Shaw, of Greenwich, by whom he had two sons, James S., who survives him and Donald who died in 1842. He occupied during his life many positions of honor and trust having three times represented his district in the legislature, viz., in 1827, 1829 and 1832, and also occupied the position of Internal Revenue Assessor for several years.

He was one of the committee of five appointed in 1825 to select a site for the county poor house, and to locate and purchase the farm. He was for forty years a member of the U. P. church in Salem, and was a constant attendant upon its services as long as his health permitted. He had talents of a high order and was a writer of much more than ordinary merit. Honest and upright, he gained and ever held the respect and high regard of community, who join their hearty regret at his death with the grief of his near friends. Although his last days were days of suffering, he held to the faith he had long professed, departed, and is at rest.

McDonald, John

13 ~

Records show one

John McDonald

Pvt., in Capt. Jeremiah Brown's Co.,

Prior's Regt., N.Y. Militia

Commencement of service: Sept 12, 1814

Expiration of service: Dec 12 1814

John Mc Donald 1813

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